Fixation of Royalty for minerals

1763. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for fixation of royalties for minerals;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to unilateral fixation of royalty Government of Bihar is to loose more than 300 crore of rupees per year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that coal producing States, specially Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa are demanding that royalty should be fixed as per prices of the mineral; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Rates of royalty on minerals other than minor minerals are prescribed as far as possible on a flat rate per unit weight arrived at on the basis or value of that mineral.

(b) For the purpose of fixed of royalty rates on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing and minor minerals, a Study Group was constituted by the Ministry of Mines wherein representatives of major mineral producing States and concerned agencies were included as members. The Study Group through a questionaire had sought to elicit information and suggestions on revision of royalty and dead rent from all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to which most of them including Government of Bihar had responded. The Study Group has made appropriate recommendations to the Government for revision of royalty rates after considering the suggestions made by all concerned. The rerommendations of the Study Group are under consideration. The question of unilateral fixation of royalty and resultant loss to Government of Bihar, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Although the coal producing States have demanded fixation of royalty on coal on advalorem basis, their request has not been agreed to.

Rajasthan areas under National Capital Region

1764. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the areas of Rajasthan included in the National Capital Region Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The following areas of Rajasthan are included in the National Capital Region Plan:

(i) The whole of the following Tehsils of Alwar District, namely, Behrcor Mandawar, Kishangarh, Tijara, Alwar and Ramgarh.

(ii) Kota Town as Counter-magnet area.

Water Racket in Delhi

1765. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 12th August, 1991 regarding well organised racket of selling to commercial establishments run by DDA and MCD thousands of litres of pure water tankers meant for the resettlement colonies and Jhuggi clusters in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what remedial action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both Delhi Development Authority (Slum Wing) and Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking have reported that no such instance of illegal selling of water to ice factories and other have come to their notice. However, it is

reported that vigilance checks will continue in this regard.

Allotment of flats to slum dwellers on cash-down basis

1766. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 489 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1991 and state:,

(a) whether the applications for allotment of flats were invited through Newspapers;

(b) whether the draw was held in the presence of some prominent people and some judges;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with names of judges who witnessed the draw;

(d) whether any publicity for holding the draw was made through newspapers for registered persons to witness the draw;

(e) whether the results of draw have been published in News paper;

(f) whether allotment-cum-demand letters have been sent to registered persons;

(g) whether cost of flat was fixed Rs. 62,000 at the time of inviting applications; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for increase in cost within two months of holding of draw?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following were members of the jury for the draw:—

(1) Smt. Nutan Guha Biswas, Additional District Magistrate.

(2) Shri R. K. Verma, an officer from the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

(3) Shri K. K. Sharma, Joint Secretary (Home) Delhi Administration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The result of the draw was displayed on the notice boards of the Delh Development Authority at Vikas Kutee and Vikas Bhavan Annexe and a notice tc to this effect was published in local newspapers.

(f) The Slum Wing of Delhi development Authority has reported that Allotment-cum-Demand lethters has been issued to the successful applicats.

(g) No, Sir. The cost of the flats was finalised only in August, 1991.

(h) Does not arise in view of reply to part (g) above.

Gauge conversion in South Central Railway

1767. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert Guntur-Dronachalam and Secunderabad-Kurnool-Guntakal metre-gauge sections in South Central Railway as broad gauge sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Survey has revealed that the project would be unremunerative. Moreover, the Railways are facing an acute resource crunch at present.

Bungling at DRM office, Asansol Division

1768. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of financial bungling at the office of D.R.M Asansol Division of Eastern Railway, involving huge sums of money has been detected and concerned officials charge-sheeted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring those found guilty to book and foil attempts, if any to enable them to hush-